

**Congress  
of the  
United States  
House of Representatives**

**JOHN F. TIERNEY  
MASSACHUSETTS  
SIXTH DISTRICT**



**HELP ATTRACT, TRAIN, AND RETAIN A STRONG FEDERAL WORKFORCE  
WITH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TRAINING FOR EMPLOYEES:**

**SUPPORT THE WAXMAN AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3925  
(DIGITAL TECH CORPS ACT)**

April 9, 2002

Dear Colleague:

Tomorrow the House will consider H.R. 3925, a bill establishing an exchange program for information technology (IT) managers. This bill's purported purpose is to train the federal workforce. Unfortunately, it fails to ensure any training. Instead, it asks the taxpayers to pay highly-skilled federal IT managers to work in the private sector (not at the federal agencies which need IT managers) for up to two years at taxpayer expense. While sending public dollars and public servants to private corporations, it does not require reciprocity from the private sector back to government. This portends an egregious form of corporate welfare, as well as a drain on already scarce federal resources.

If improved IT training for federal agencies is the issue, we should address it head on. Representative Waxman will offer an amendment to do just that. **The Waxman training amendment will establish a Federal Information Technology Training Program that would ensure that our limited public dollars are spent as effectively as possible.** According to Bobby Harnage, the president of the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO, the Waxman Training Amendment would "help agencies to address their information technology management and contract administration problems by training and recruiting employees in information technology disciplines."

Last month, I was pleased to join a bipartisan, bicameral group -- including several Government Reform Committee members led by Chairman Burton -- to introduce the GOFEDS (Generating Opportunity by Forgiving Educational Debt for Service) Act -- legislation permitting the government to offer tax-free loan repayment as a way of encouraging college graduates to pursue federal careers. We came together -- Democrats and Republicans -- with a shared goal to reform and reinvigorate government by attracting the best and brightest Americans to public service.

Unfortunately, H.R. 3925 as currently written will move us in the **opposite** direction by contracting out talented professionals. The Waxman Training Amendment will improve the bill, and assist our overall efforts to attract, train, and retain a strong federal workforce with 21<sup>st</sup> century information technology skills. I urge your support for this amendment.

Sincerely,



JOHN F. TIERNEY, M.C.  
Member, Government Reform Committee

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